

# ST. MARY'S LOCH FLOOD STORAGE OPTION - PART OF THE SELKIRK FPS

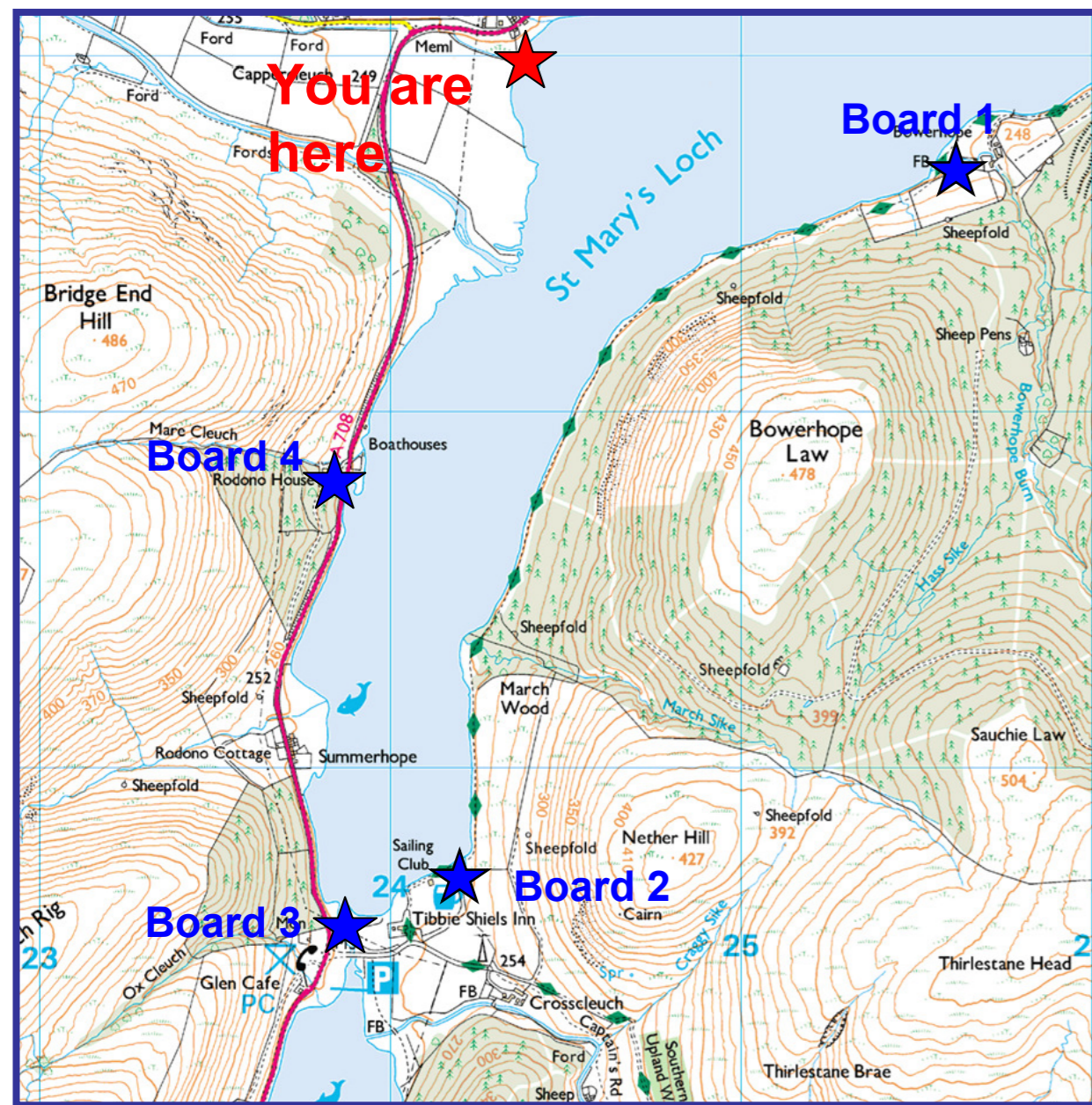
## Public Notice Board Number 5 of 5 – Located at Cappercleuch

### Background Information:

The St. Mary's Loch (SML) Flood Storage Option is part of the Selkirk Flood Protection Scheme (FPS). **It offers an innovative and sustainable approach to reducing flood risk to the Yarrow Catchment including Selkirk.**

The benefits include:

- Reduced flood risk along the Yarrow Water at communities downstream of SML such as **Yarrowfeus, Yarrow and Yarrowford.**
- Reduced flood risk from the Ettrick Water between the meeting of the Yarrow Water and Ettrick Water to the confluence of the Ettrick Water with the River Tweed including **Selkirk and Lindean.**



### What is the St. Mary's Loch (SML) Option?:

- The SML Option involves adapting the operation of the existing flow control structures, to further utilise the natural ability of the loch to store flood water during a Flood Event and reduce downstream flood risk.
- The flood storage proposals are being reviewed by a Working Group of interested Stakeholders known as the **St. Mary's Loch Working Group (SMLWG).**
- For more information on the SML Option or the SMLWG please visit the project website at [www.selkirkfloodscheme.com](http://www.selkirkfloodscheme.com).

### What do we hope the SML Option will achieve?:

- Once completed the SML Option will provide a new management system which will be intelligently programmed to manage water levels dependant on the season and the weather forecast.
- **The water level in the loch (the 'Normal Loch Level') will be lowered by approx. 650 mm below the water levels currently experienced.**
- During a Flood Event the loch will be allowed to fill, as it currently does, but starting from this lower level.
- The level at which the loch currently spills will be increased by 250mm to further increase the storage capacity.
- This will allow approximately 3 million cubic metres of additional water to be held in the loch and thus kept out of the Yarrow Water.
- **We currently estimate Peak Flows in the Yarrow Water will be reduced by up to 20% during the 1 in 25 Year Flood Event.**
- Once a Flood Event has passed, the flood water held in SML will be released in a controlled manner, returning the loch level to the new 'Normal Loch Level'.

**NB: The SML flood storage proposal can only reduce flood risk - it cannot eliminate flood risk.**

### Historical Flooding Events:

- The flood event experienced on the Yarrow Water in November 2009 was a 1 in 75 Year flood event.

### The Notice Boards & Marker Posts:

These Notice Boards and the associated Marker Posts have been installed to help you understand the SML Flood Storage Option. They are not intended to fully explain the proposals and **we strongly suggest you contact a member of the SMLWG if you have any concerns or further queries.**

The image below provides a graphic display of the Marker Post located on front of you. This image provides an explanation of the various levels identified on the Marker Post.

NB: Marks below ground level are for illustrative purposes only.

